

Recipient: Drowne, Henry Russell

Giles, Catherine Darlington

October 2, 1919

Subject: Columbian Anacreontic Society medal;

[Mrs. William Ogden Giles]

Giles, Aguila, Maj. Gen.; Society of the Cincinnati

[350 W 115th St.]

350 West 115<sup>th</sup> St  
Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 1919

Henry R. Dawne Esq  
Dear Sir

As a member of the  
Society of Cincinnati I write  
to tell you of a medal which  
I have; belonging to Major  
Gen. Aquila Giles - my late  
Husband's Grandfather.

It has a very interesting  
history which I have copied  
from an old book in  
the 42<sup>nd</sup> St Library.

I met your Father once  
and know he took an interest  
in Gen. Giles and all old  
time relics - I would like  
to present it to the Historical  
Society in my husband's  
name - but I really need  
some money and wish to sell  
it - Can you help me to do  
so?

Yours respectfully  
Catherine Darlington Giles  
(Mrs. Wm. Ogden)



The Columbian Anacreontic Society  
was founded in the United States  
in 1798 - Copied after the Original  
Society of the same name of London.  
The Original Society was composed of  
Noblemen & wealthy amateurs in  
music - they had fortnightly concerts  
at the Crown & Anchor Tavern in  
the Strand - a supper was followed  
by singing - The President or his  
Deputy sang the Constitutional  
Song "To Anacreon in Heaven"  
which later on furnished us Americans  
with the Musical Substratum of both  
"Adams & Liberty" & the "Star Spangled Banner".  
These songs were followed by catches &  
Glees sung by the most eminent  
vocalists of their day - The London  
Society dissolved in 1786 -  
In New York were no noblemen  
but there were wealthy amateurs

2/ of a musical & convivial trend  
of mind - It needed but a jolly  
good fellow with recollections of  
the happy days of the Anacreontic  
Society in London to mould his  
friends into a society here - they  
found him in John Hodgkinson  
a disciple of Bacchus - a Pringen  
an Actor. His was probably the  
moving spirit in the foundation  
of the Columbian Anacreontic Society  
in 1795 and was President the first  
four years with the following  
formidable array of talent to  
assist him

John C. Sharr 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.  
Aquila Giles 2<sup>nd</sup> " "  
John Bleeker Secretary  
John Ferris Treasurer



3/ William Richardson - William H. Robinson  
Henry Loringston - James Maitland  
James Bayler - John Beckman  
Standing Room. George Pollock  
B. Minthorn - Joseph Stansbury  
Edward Moore - Richard Morris  
Aquila Giles - James Hewitt -  
a Concert number gives

Collins Ode on the Passions.  
Composed by J. Hewitt - the earliest  
example of Melodramatic Music  
Composed in America - They gave  
their Concerts at ~~the~~ Tortine Coffee  
House following business hours  
Possibly some day their Constitution  
and by-laws may turn up - also  
amended by laws of March 1800  
They had an annual Ladies Concert  
every Spring - their emblem was  
an Irish Harp - Members could  
invite visitors and the Society

4 fore an excellent reputation - It  
took a prominent part in the  
Procession in Memory of George Washington  
Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 1799 to - gether with the Philharmonic  
Society - The arrangements for music  
were made with great care - meeting  
at the Green room of the Theatre one  
hour before the procession - Badges  
shrouded with black + a knot of Bk  
love ribbon attached to the centre  
of the rose to which the line was  
pendant

In May 17<sup>th</sup> 1798 a complimentary  
Benefit was given to the Pres.  
John Hodgkinson - seats reserved  
for them in the Shakespeare Box.  
if they wear their badges -